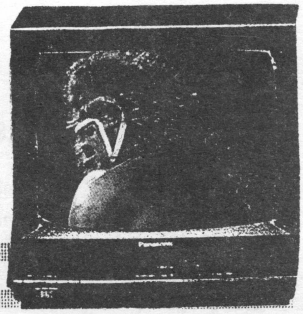
MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305



VOL. 3, NO. 24 DEC. 10-16

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

ZENK WINS NWA TV CHAMPIONSHIP

ATLANTA---Tom Zenk defeated Arn Anderson for the NWA TV championship Dec. 4 at tapings at Atlanta's Center Stage.

Zenk ended the 11-month reign of Anderson in a continuination of an elevated push for the former U.S. tag team co-champion.

The match will not air on WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING until after STARRCADE. Zenk is expected to begin a major feud over the belt with Bobby Eaton.

DeGEORGE TAKES HELM OF UWF MIKE

LOS ANGELES---Former WWF announcer Craig DeGeorge has taken over as play-by-play commentator for Herb Abrams' Universal Wrestling Federation.

DeGeorge, who was bounced in 1987 from the WWF, replaces the UWF owner as lead announcer for the promotion, which airs weekly on SPORTS CHANNEL AMERICA.

Abrams shifted to doing wrestler interviews for the taping. DeGeorge is expected to be at the mike at the UWF's New York tapings in early January.

USA TODAY PROFILES MICHAEL WALLSTREET

WASHINGTON---Mike Rotunda has been around wrestling ten years but Michael Wallstreet has only taken three weeks to make the money section of USA TODAY.

The national daily profiled the Wallstreet character on page one of its MONEY section Monday morning. Rotunda was likened to Michael Douglas' role in the film WALL STREET and described his "Stock Market Crash" move on an opponent: "One moment he's as high as he can be. Then, he comes crashing to the pavement. Just like a real stock market crash.

In the story, Rotunda was erroneously depicted as winning two tag titles, one with Dr. Death Steve Williams, as a "good guy." Both came as part of the heel Varsity Club.

Sunday in St. Louis

STARRCADE: LATER IS WHAT COUNTS

Seven years ago, before WRESTLEMANIA, before WRESTLE WAR, before SUMMER SLAM---there was STARRCADE, the mother supershow with the double consonant. Once again, as in the past four spectaculars, STARRCADE comes at a pivotal point for the NWA.

In 1987, the last of the Thanksgiving night STARRCADEs saw the end of a controversial Ric Flair-Ronnie Garvin NWA title series which many hardcores believed epitomized the political maneuvering of booker Dusty Rhodes with the NWA belt. The following year, STARRCADE was critical as the first pay-cable show of a Ted Turner-owned NWA. 'CADE regenerated enthusiasm of the faithful with seven solid matches, topped by a classic Flair-Lex Luger finale.

Last year in Atlanta, the Ironman/Ironteam format, came as NWA officials decided to launch Steve "Sting" Borden on a major push to to the NWA title, kicked off by his upset over Flair with 17 seconds left in the STARRCADE finale.

Sunday night in St. Louis, STARRCADE VIII arrives when the NWA badly needs to regild some damaged luster. Seven months of an Ole Anderson booking regime have left the promotion needing to refocus and lay to rest 1974-ish philosophies of Anderson. STARRCADE may a start.

A number of positives should come from this show: 1) as Gerald Ford might say, "Our long national nightmare is over," regarding a merciful to the Black Scorpion-Sting episodes. I salute Anderson for this: far more people, particularly kids, have quizzed who the Black Scorpion is than ask if Flair and Steamboat will ever revive their series. Personally, I don't care if it's Flair, Windham or whomever, the key is: this mystery has continued far too long and has deteriorated Sting into an image as an easily-spooked, rather than fearless champion. Getting it over with is the important thing. If, despite Jim Ross' Saturday WRESTLING HOTLINE report, Flair turns out to be the Scorpion, the finish may offer a clue if WCW has given up on Sting as its standardbearer. If not, it's long past time Sting had a decisive, unencumbered victory on a pay show; 2) the show potentially has three solid topline main events. In addition, though the Pat O'Connor International Tag Team Tournament somewhat crowds the evening---and some of the mystery teams are bound to be bad---if the tourney climaxes in a Steiners vs. Muta/Saito finale, as is almost certain, make it four top-flight events; 3) STARRCADE will feature what has become the wrestling's top announce combo in Ross and Paul E. Dangerously. With Vince McMahon still missing Jesse Ventura in New York, Ross and Dangerously sealed their hold on the throne at CLASH XIII. Why? In our view, Jim and Paul proved the saving grace of a disastrous night (along with Flair and Butch Reed) and the test of announcers is when they can maintain quality through a bad show and not press. CLASH night, Ross and Dangerously were much like when Don Shula coaches a team with 4-12 talent to a 9-7 record.

Of course, if this is to be a launching pad for a turnaround of WCW's fortunes, what comes *after* STARRCADE is more essential than the show itself. The great Flair-Steamboat pay series was supported by confusing undercards. Ric Flair's turn to a babyface in 1989 did not ring cash registers at the arenas. The post-STARRCADE of 1990 lies in the hands of the next WCW booker, which some would have you believe is as much a mystery as the Scorpion's identity.

MATWATCHING

DEMOS ARE BETTER: February's THE MAIN EVENT on NBC finished 13th for the week in the 18-49 male demographic, despite a low overall rating. Not nearly as strong this time but the Nov. 23 event did post a 6.8 rating and 20 share among 18-49 males, good enough to win its time period and finish in 30th place.

AMONG WOMEN: As could be expected, the story was worse among 18-49 women. MAIN EVENT registered a 5.7/16 with the females, finish third to DALLAS (18 share) and 20/20 (22 share). No breakdown available on kids.

CENTER STAGE: Another round of Steiners-Freebirds was launched Tuesday night during a Rick Steiner-Michael Hayes match where if Rick lost, the Freebirds get a U.S. title shot and if Hayes lost, no more Freebirds-Steiners matches. It has a funny twist at the end. It airs after STARRCADE.

CUTTING OUT: Turner Program Services has canceled its syndication of WORLD WIDE and NWA PRO on Atlanta's WVEU SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING marathon Jan. 12. TPS told a WVEU program exec WCW felt the programs created a conflict of interest with host Boni Blackstone's fiance Joe Pedicino's GWF.

CALLS COMING: Pedicino getting a daily diet of calls from wrestlers wanting to work for Global but he's being slow on talent selections until after the buyout of USWA is finalized Dec. 26. New Japan is seeking a booking for Akira Nagiaomi.

FOR THE RECORD: Talk at Center Stage Tuesday night was that both Dusty Rhodes and Terry Funk are coming in to run the NWA in January but the word from Jack Petrik's office is still that no one has been hired.

WHY WON'T THEY TALK?: I've had at least 50 calls asking why WCW will not acknowledge anything about Rhodes. Two reasons: 1) despite all the talk, WCW may---in fact---have nothing signed with Dusty; and 2) the company could face a serious tampering case in court if it even acknowledges having conversations with Dusty. This is why NFL owners or college athletic directors ask permission to talk with a contractually-bound coach before pursuing him. Jim Herd has told some people it is a "bald-faced lie" that Rhodes has been hired.

ANOTHER POINT: I, like many others, was contacted dozens of times in the last week with scenarios allegedly already determined having Flair win the belt from Sting on Christmas night in Atlanta and a series of title switches all the way to next fall with Scott Steiner winning the NWA belt. I don't buy it for a minute. For one thing, this promotion has never stuck with a plan that long-term. Second, after what Petrik told me two weeks ago, I cannot envision a Dusty Rhodes retirement tour materializing.

SALES WERE STRONG: I'm told Jerry Lawler's "I Survived a Fake Quake" t-shirts sold well. The predicted tremor, of course, never occurred but created enough of a scare for Memphis officials to close the Mid-South Coliseum last Monday.

ANOTHER TOURNEY: Atlantic States Association (ASWA) taped 4 weeks of shows Dec. 1 for its USA title tourney (shows will air on cable's Home Team Sports beginning Saturday). One correspndent said less than 100 turned out in Martinsburg WV, "including wives, girl friends, mothers and hangers-on."

WHERE'S THE FUNKER?: NWA officials were to have met with Terry Funk Sunday in Orlando where Funk has been doing some film work. Some insiders say the checkbook will be out for the USWA champion.

CAN'T MISS: The video of this past summer's RUMBLE ON THE RIVER event, which included the Funk-Stan Hansen main event brawl is now available. Cost: $25. Order from: EXCALIBUR PROMOTIONS, 1020 COOPER ST., DEPTFORD NJ 08096.

PRETTY CURRENT: Larry Sharpe's MONSTER FACTORY wrestling school was profiled on the weekend's A CURRENT AFFAIR: WEEKEND EDITION.

FLORIDA FALLS: Steve Keirn actually lost a Florida title match but not the belt Thursday night in Tampa, dropping a countout to Lebanese Assassin. Lou Perez beat Jim Backlund in a cage by reversal and Don Harris won over Hurricane Walker.

MORE 3-DIGITS: NWA drew an estimated 900 in its Omaha debut and 450 in Sioux City. But expect a sellout in St. Louis for STARRCADE Sunday night.

CONTRACT TALK: The Royal Family (Rip Morgan/Jack Victory) has reportedly been pitched a WCW deal post-STARRCADE. Turner is not sitting still. You can expect many more WCW regulars to be locked into deals than "nightly guarantees" for many of the mid-level stars in recent months. The loss of the Nasty Boys to the WWF exposed the vulnerability of non-contract players and the perceived challenge underneath from Global will probably drive up the price and terms of performers.

NO GOOD LUCK CHARM: Shohei Baba is expected to be out nine months after suffering a broken leg during a match on the recent tour with the Funk Brothers.

WHO'S THERE? WHO'S NOT?: Don Muraco and Barry O and Iceman Parsons showed up for the UWF taping last week in Reseda CA but Steve Williams, Greg Valentine and Scotty the Body were advertised and not there. Abrams continues to say he's working on bringing in the Midnight Express but as of last week, Jim Cornette had not been approached.

HOGAN MAKES CHILD'S DREAM COME TRUE

DALLAS---Matthew Alford is an 11-year-old who has a bigger problem to wrestle than Earthquake John Tenta. But don't tell that to Matthew after his visit to meet Hulk Hogan.

The sixth-grader from Germantown TN is suffering from a lymph node tumor. His meeting with Hogan at Reunion Arena Nov. 29 was arranged by the Memphis Make-a-Wish Foundation chapter.

MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL writer Clay Bailey has been following Matthew's case. "He's on the winning side right now," Bailey wrote in a recent story. "His father said a recent six-month checkup after a bone marrow transplant shows the lymphoma in remission."

Matthew had some questions for Hogan: "I'm going to ask him who his favorite wrestler is, besides himself, who was his hardest opponent and talk to him about his hardest match." Matthew told Bailey, in a question about whether wrestling is real or fake: "It's about halfway between there."

TV TEMPO
Dec. 3-9

(LUCHA LIBRE) - [HAIR VS. HAIR] Ringo Mendoza d. Ken Timbs 2-3; El Gigante Kimala/El Satanico/Herodes d. El Dandy/Atlantis/El Rayo de Jalisco Jr.; Anibal/Super Astro/Sangre Chicana d. Los Brazos 2-3; Fuerza Guerrera/Jaque Mate/Pierroth Jr. d. El Nuevo Huracan Ramirez Jr./Octagon/Kato Kung Lee I 2-3; El Justiciero/El Misterioso no contest vs. Los Supremos I & II; (CLIP) [NWA WORLD LT. HWT. TITLE] El Satanico d. Lizmark 2-3 to win belt. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(ALL JAPAN) - [11/18]: Shohei Baba/Andre the Giant d. Dick Slater/Joel Deaton; Stan Hansen/Danny Spivey d. Funk Brothers; Jumbo Tsuruta/Akira Taue d. Abdullah the Butcher/Giant Kimala II. DRAW.

(NEW JAPAN) - [11/17]: Keiiji Muto/Masa Chono d. Tiger Jeet Singh/Masanobu Kurisu; Animal Hamaguchi d. Tatsumi Fujinami; Riki Choshu/Masa Saito/Shinya Hashimoto d. Larry Cameron/Big Van Vader/Bad News Brown. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Koko B. Ware d. Bob Bradley; (UPDATE) Undertaker at SURVIVOR SERIES; Curt Hennig d. Brad Kramer; Earthquake d. Mike Daniel; (From NBC) Ultimate Warrior d. Ted DiBiase by DQ when Virgil breaks up pin but Randy Savage/Sherri ambush Warrior; Battlekat d. Boris Zhukov; Tugboat d. Jeff Sword; Sgt. Slaughter d. Sonny Blaze; Hart Foundation d. Hardee/Perez; (BRO. LUV) Jim Duggan blasts Slaughter; Other winners: Legion of Doom. RESTHOLD.

(ASWA) - A.J. Pritzoid d. Hurricane Walker; Max Thrasher d. Tim Dyer; Agent Orange d. Corey Roberts; Atom Smash/Axel Rotten d. Chicago Hitmen. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYN) - [SUPERSTARS]: (Honky Tonk Man guest co-hosts) Bushwackers d. Tony Ulysses/Troy Durham; Sgt. Slaughter d. Sonny Blaze; Jake Roberts d. Scott Colantonio; (UPDATE) Andre the Giant announced for ROYAL RUMBLE; Warlord d. Glen Ruth; Bossman d. Chris Duffy; (BRO. LUV) Dustin Rhodes refuses Ted DiBiase's offer to buy him & decks Ted but DiBiase/Virgil doubleteam Dustin until Kerry Von Erich saves; Demolition d. Jim McPherson/Scott Sumner; Earthquake d. Daniel. RESTHOLD. [CHALLENGE]: Hart Foundation d. Hardee/Perez; Undertaker d. Mike Sampson; Power & Glory d. Hawn/Pocari; Jimmy Snuka d. Gill; Tugboat d. Zhukov; Orient Express d. Mario Mancini/Cumberland. RESTHOLD.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Curtis Thompson d. Mad Dog; Jim Powell/Festus d. Avengers; (5-STAR) Mike George d. Dusty Wolfe; (CLASSIC) Grappler d. Rex King; Ron Starr/Joel Deaton d. Gerald Finley/John McDaniels; (INTL) Carlos Colon d. Kendo Nagasaki; Blazers d. Billy Black/Mr. Wrestling when Powell/Festus trip up Black; (ANGLE) Black agress to give Powell/Festus Ga. tag title match next week. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Ron Simmons d. Italian Stallion; (CLIP) Ric Flair's ill-fated limo ride w. Teddy Long; Brian Pillman d. Jeff Sword; (WRAPUP) STARRCADE, including Dick the Bruiser interview; Stan Hansen d. Allen Iron Eagle; Tom Zenk d. Buddy Landell; (From CLASH) Sid Vicious d. Nightstalker by DQ when Curtis Hughes runs in & the two doubleteam Sid; Skyscrapers d. Lee Scott/Jerry Price; Nightstalker/Motor City Madman d. Phillip Parrish/Brett Sawyer. RESTHOLD.

[NWA PRO]: Sid Vicious d. John Douglas; Lex Luger d. Jim Corbett; Pillman d. Rob Morgan; (HANDICAP) Big Van Vader d. Barry DeVille/Paul Lee; Hughes d. Jamie McKinnon; Tom Zenk d. Dave Johnson; Nasty Boys d. Tim Horner/Allen Iron Eagle. RESTHOLD.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Danny Davis d. Cody Michaels; (BOXING MATCH) Dirty White Girl d. Sweet Georgia Brown when Eddie Gilbert KOs Georgia while Brickhouse Brown/Tony Anthony brawl outside; Jeff Gaylord d. Todd Morton; (REPLAY) End of previous week's Jeff Jarrett-Gilbert match; Jarrett d. Doug Gilbert and piledrives Sam Bass Lowe on attempted run-in; (LOSER LEAVE NASHVILLE) Jerry Lawler/Bill Dundee d. Internationals. DRAW. [BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Eddie d. Jamie Dundee; (ANGLE) Joseph Magliano joins Memphis Mafia; Lawler/B. Dundee d. The Shadow/Sgt. O'Reilly; Davis d. Doug Gilbert by DQ when Memphis Mafia runs in; (6-MAN) New Kids/Chris Champion d. Ken Wayne/Magliano/Tony Anthony by DQ. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(ICW CLASSICS) - Don Muraco d. Mad Russian; Tom Brandi d. Kahlua; Ivan & Scott Putski d. Tony Ulysses/Lumberjack; Mike Sharpe d. Rozzo; Tony Atlas d. Joe Savoldi. BOMB.

(USWA/WMC) - Davis d. Magliano; [USWA TAG TITLE] Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Jarrett/Michaels to regain belts when Magliano tosses Tony knucks to use on Cody; (SEGMENT) Jim Cornette/Stan Lane scoff at Memphis Mafia; (VIDEO) Fabulous Ones; Lawler d. Eddie by DQ when Mafia runs in but Steve Keirn chases heels w. chair; (6-MAN) New Kids/Keirn d. O'Reilly/Scorpions; (SEGMENT) Eddie denies placing $10,000 bounty on Lawler. POWERSLAM.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Freebirds d. Lee/Todd Brewer; (WNN) Gordon Solie recaps Sting-Scorpion, Luger-Hansen feuds; Steiners d. Moondog Rex/Buddy Landell; Bobby Eaton d. Keith Hart; Flair/Arn Anderson d. Jeff Gambel/Greg Sawyer; Tommy Rich/Ricky Morton d. Mike Samples/Corbett. RESTHOLD. [WCW]: Hughes/Madman d. Dave Perry/Scott Allen; (6-MAN) Morton/Rich/Zenk double DQ vs. Freebirds/Eaton when outside brawl starts. George South, Rich/Morton's original partner, double DDT'd before match. Zenk, who came out to help, was popped by Eaton, so ref allows Z to sub; (WRAPUP) STARRCADE preview; Pillman d. Rip Rogers; Terry Taylor d. Joe Cezana; Landell d. Tracy Smothers by holding trunks; Michael Wallstreet d. Joe Barrett; [ANGLE] Wallstreet taunts Taylor during interview w. Paul E. Taylor enters & the 2 brawl; Taylor d. Cezana (they showed it & the angle twice); (REPLAY) Luger-Hughes brawls at CLASH & replay of Vader teaming w. Luger; Juicer d. Ed Brock; Vicious d. Brian Carr; Nightstalker d. Defuria; (From WNN) 'Scrapers d. Scott/Price; [STREET FIGHT] DOOM d. Pablo Crenshaw/John Peterson. DRAW-PLUS. [WCW MAIN EVENT]: Juicer d. Ralph Hodges; (NWA TV TITLE) Anderson double DQ vs. Taylor; [DANGER ZONE] Paul E. reviews Sting-Scorpion saga when Scorp's voice overrides and tells Paul the Scorpion "is no friend of yours either, Paul E. Dangerously;" Nasty Boys d. Renegade Warriors & keep beating on Warriors but Steiners save & chase Nasties out; Zenk d. Madman. POWERSLAM.

(LPWA) - Magnificent Mimi d. Bambi; Terry Power d. Lelani Kai; [NON-TITLE] The Beast d. Susan Sexton. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Paul E. Dangerously, PH: "Wrestling the Steiners is like playing with a pit bull. You're never sure when he's gonna bite you." 2. Jim Ross, PH, on Moondog Rex's mouth: "He is not sanctioned by the American Dental Association." 3. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on L.O.D.: "They told me to do something to myself but I can't say that on television." 4. Sean Mooney/Alfred Hayes, PTW, on Battlekat: (AH) "I bet he drinks a lot of milk." (SM) "Imagine what he'd do to your drapes." 5. Ronald P. Gossett IV, WVEU: "Teddy Long did Ric Flair a favor with that limo. Flair hadn't made a payment on it in six months and they were coming to repossess it." 6. Dick the Bruiser, WWW: "I don't wear no rubber gloves because I'm afraid of blood." 7. Ross, PH: "I think Tony Gilliam's eons off. Beautiful Bobby is no longer a member of the Midnight Express. I think Tony spent too much time at Rupert's last night." 8. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Ian's 2 years older than Sean (Mooney). They're identical twins." 9. Tony Schiavone/Dutch Mantel, WWW: (DM) "The Nightstalker reminds me a lot of myself." (TS) "He sure doesn't look like you. Of course, nobody looks like you, Dutch." 10. Michael Hayes, WCW, on Robert Gibson's injury: "It's like a Christmas tree without the trimmings. It's like a bag without presents."

11. Downtown Bruno, WMC: "Speaking of a loan, I wish you'd leave me alone, Dave." 12. Bob Caudle, WCW: "The Scorpion was always sending people out to do his wrestling for him. I was beginning to think he was the Milli Vanilli of the wrestling world." 13. Ross, WCW, on shirtless kid posing as Juicer: "Somebody better tell that kid it's winter. Get some long pants on that boy." 14. Ross, WCW, on Pillman-Rogers collision: "It's like the insurance commercial with two rams butting heads." 15. Ross, PH, on Freebirds' finishing move: "The DDT lullably in stereo." 16. Paul E., PH: "I don't know anything about common sense because I make common dollars." 17. Craig Johnson, USWA, on Dundee holding kendo stick: "He's the Errol Flynn from Down Under." 18. Vince McMahon/Roddy Piper/Honky Tonk Man, WWF-SU: (VM) "Honk, how long does it take you to comb your hair?" (HT) "35 or 40 minutes." (RP) "We're talking 50 minutes in the can." 19. McMahon/Piper, WWF-SU, on Slaughter's headdress: (RP) "It looks like somebody shot the Sheik at the Motel 6." (VM) "Tom Bodette, eat your heart out." 20. McMahon/Piper, WWF-SU, on Sarge: (VM) "How'd you like to join the armed forces and find this man as your drill instructor? (RP) "Yeah, you'd probably be kicked out for saying SHAZAM!"

21. Paul E., PH, on Z-Man/Madman rematch: "I guess the loser can no longer use the name Man." 22. Axel Rotten, ASWA: "The USA belt is a weightlifting belt painted black."

BEST OF THE REST

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Bruiser, WWW, on Pat O'Connor tag tourney: "I could probably beat all 4 of the wrestlers in the ring." 2. Sting, WWW: "I will not walk around another arena & listen to voices or watch magic." 3. Paul E., PH, on WCW CLASSICS: "When I first heard about, I thought it was a bad idea. I thought we were gonna show Frank Gotch or George Hackenschmidt." 3. Paul E., PH: "I think Tony Gilliam is either drunk or blind."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Heenan, PTW, on L.O.D.: "What can you do to them that they don't do to themselves?" 2. Ross, WCW, on Eaton asking Hart his mother's name: "Is that a trend? Isn't that a real creative way to get people mad at you, to talk about your mother?" 3. Vince McMahon, WWF-SU, to Honky: "Elvis had the Jordanaires. If you had the Bushwackers as your backup group, what would you do?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE MA BARKER OF THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION (Mooney on Heenan). 2. DIRTMAN (Schiavone on Mantel). 3. MODERN-DAY EINSTEIN (Paul E. on himself).

HANK KIMBALL AWARD - Alfred Hayes, PTW, on Zhukov's singing: "He's not bad. He's not good...but he's not bad."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WCW, Bobby Eaton posted. 2. WCW, Rip Rogers telling cameraman to move, then getting creamed by Pillman. 3. WWF-SU, Butch Miller mobbed by fans, crushing Howard Finkel. 4. WWF-SU, Virgil shining DiBiase's & BRO. LUV's shoes. 5. WCW, Reed piledriving Peterson on floor.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Ted DiBiase, WWF-SU: "...water under the bridge." Mantel, WWW: "...bitten off more than he could chew."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - PH, for spelling Keith Hart's name HEART.

BLOOPER AWARD - TBS, for repeating Taylor-Cexana match on WCW and Wallstreet-Taylor angle in 2 consecutive segments and causing initial WCW CLASSICS seg to be botched.

TUBE TALK

Action-wise, my hat is off to Jim Ross for a miracle producing job on WCW with no Sting, Luger, Horsemen or Steiners present. Even the squash matches had an upbeat quality and an angle that had some sense....On the other hand, I have no idea why the Taylor-Cexana match and Wallstreet angle were repeated. It is inconceivable the show could have been edited that way and it strikes me as a control room error. That mistake is probably what caused the foulup of Gordon Solie referring to a Muta "classic" that only appeared for a split second. The switcher likely fast forwarded the tape enough to make up for the time chewed up with the repeat error.

If someone could get us a dub of the ASWA show on HOME TEAM SPORTS (maybe Mr. Horton), we'd love to see it....Premiere Global taping Dec. 28 may go to the Sportatorium after all. It appears the Bronco Bowl in Dallas has a layout which may create production problems....Vince McMahon will be allowed to bring his ring back and hold matches at the NATPE television programmers' convention in New Orleans Jan. 14-18. Last year, NATPE banned the ring on the display floor but enough people missed the acts, it's back.

I felt the Vince/Piper/Honky combo was the worst mix yet on the WWF mikes. Vince honestly tried to bring out Wayne Farris but Piper appeared to intimidate him and Honky did not offer either humor or much of an energy level in his role.... Next week, we'll offer a full-length feature on the new syndie series, GRUDGE MATCH, with Jesse Ventura and Lyle (LEARNING THE ROPES) Alzado. FSB.

I suppose you're happy. Because of your insistence on publishing a six-month-old story, a young man's career is damaged. So you think Art Barr was "miscast" as The Juicer because of his court case? You've been in the media long enough. Have you ever heard of innocent until proven guilty? Art Barr has never been convicted of a rape. For someone who says he believes anyone deserves a second chance, you have an ambiguous way of showing it. The Juicer was a character. There is a difference in the character being a role model from Art Barr being one. I hope you can sleep well at night.

ROGER MURRAY
BOSTON MA

Why should Art Barr be penalized when he's already paid his dues? The man could be on the road to getting his life in order and people like you and Dave Meltzer have decided to play judge and jury over his life. I think Jim Herd is just as much at fault as you guys when he decides to chew out his booker and agrees the situation is an embarrassment. Maybe the WWF will take Barr and give him the chance he deserves.

CHRIS BOWMAN
GREEN BAY WI

I've read letters in The Observer and other newsletters concerning the Art Barr/NWA situation defending Barr. I wonder if the writers of those letters would feel the same about Barr if they were women.

ANDREA CARON
PORT ARTHUR TX

The kids loved The Juicer. Why penalize them and deny them the right to one of their favorites when Art Barr has already served his sentence?

MARC FREEMAN
JACKSONVILLE FL

The Art Barr situation is a prime example to me of what's wrong with professional wrestling and athletics, in general. We're supposed to ignore the Pete Roses of the world when they lie, cheat on their taxes and take money from drug dealers to pay off their debts. Bill Parcells defends Zeke Mowatt when he decides to be an exhibitionist before a female sportswriter. Now there are people who feel we should let Art Barr continue to lead children to the ring when he could not control his own behavior in the back door of an arena. Things like this have me on the verge of declaring I am no longer a wrestling fan.

AMANDA ROGERS
CLEVELAND OH

(FSB: As to the first letter, it is true Barr has never been convicted of a rape but his complaintant originally alleged rape. He reached a plea agreement reducing the charge to a misdemeanor of sexual abuse. Dave Meltzer can, I'm certain, speak for himself, but we didn't play judge and jury. That has been done in Oregon. Fact: letters were sent to TV stations in Atlanta and most markets where the NWA has a syndicated show, along with selected newspaper writers, with copies enclosed of Portland-area columns aghast at the Barr penalty. The people who hired Barr should have known better than to think his case would not become an issue.)

YOU SAID IT!!!

I have been an NWA fan for 15 years and have stuck by them through every up and down of the 1980s. But CLASH XIII has to stand out as the absolute low point of Ted Turner's ownership of the promotion. It seems to me Ted himself better do some housecleaning in the whole office and in the ring because nobody else seems to be doing it. If Ole can survive this one, I'll be convinced it's over.

GEORGE MARTIN
SOUTH FULTON KY

I watched all the supershows on Thanksgiving week and never thought that a taped WWF preview show would be better than a CLASH. But it was and anyone who thinks otherwise just didn't digest their Thanksgiving turkey.

JEFF BLACKHURST
WESTHAVEN CO

I'll answer your question: have you ever seen an NWA match worse than Sid Vicious vs. Nightstalker? No.

ROBERT BLACK
OKLAHOMA CITY OK

I was at the live (CLASH) show and found it to be very entertaining and the crowd was alive the whole evening, except for the African match. I'd give it a thumbs up.

JOEL FRANKLIN
LIVE OAK FL

Except for the first two matches and Flair vs. Reed, I have never wasted as much of time as I did the night of the CLASH. Only Paul E. and Rossie kept it mildly interesting.

REX CARLISLE
MANTEO NC

MATWATCH ANNUAL

The MATWATCH 1990 ANNUAL: WHAT WENT WRONG will be published around Jan. 20. Included: the MATWATCH MAN OF THE YEAR, MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR, our annual MATWATCH TV AWARDS, our Wrestling Broadcasting System TV Log, an analysis of the year just past, the top 15 TV news stories of the year and a short story on wrestling's glory days by Dr. Gerald Morton.

Price: $12 (U.S./CANADA), $20 (OVERSEAS). Check, cash or money order to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

RATINGS RAP

WCW KEEPS LEAD; A-A TIES LOW

Hovering close to a 3 rating, TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING recorded its third consecutive weekly Nielsen ratings victory for the week ending Dec. 3.

WCW, spearheaded by the Ric Flair limo ride with Theodore R. Long and Big Van Vader's debut teaming with Lex Luger against Curtis Hughes and Motor City Madman, scored a 2.9 rating and 5.5 per cent share of audience for its two-hour slot Dec. 1. WCW has built strong ratings momentum since Nov. 17 to push pay-per-view subscriptions for Sunday night's STARRCADE.

NWA MAIN EVENT captured the runner-up slot for the third straight week as well. NME was down 16 per cent from the hot 3.1 of the previous week but its 2.6 on Dec. 2 was strong enough to take second place.

WWF PRIME TIME, down slightly from the Dec. 3 airing, was in third but the continued alarm is over WWF ALL-AMERICAN, which had experienced a surprisingly strong early fall. In the past three weeks, ALL-AM's audience has dropped to record levels and the Dec. 2 broadcast tied the all-time low registered Nov. 18. ALL-AMERICAN finished with a 2.0 rating and a weak (for the time period) 5.4 share (NOTE: programs airing earlier in the day regularly score higher shares because of lesser competition). The Sunday noon WWF program is down 20 per cent from its year-ago fall ratings.

NWA POWER HOUR dropped back from its 2.1 Saturday high for the second straight week. POWER came in with a 1.5, its second-lowest outing since the move to Saturday mornings.

CABLE

Week Ending Dec. 3	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 12/1)	2.9	5.5	1.62 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 12/2)	2.6	4.6	1.46 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 12/3)	2.5	3.9	1.35 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 12/2)	2.0	5.4	1.12 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 12/1)	1.5	6.0	840,000

The Other Side of the Ring

STING FULFILLS TEEN FINAL DAYS

JACKSONVILLE FL---The mystery of the Black Scorpion has not matched the poignant battle of a 15-year-old from south Georgia.

JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL columnist Bob Phelps has detailed the plight of the teen, Chuck Davis of Waycross GA, who had been fighting a malignant brain tumor in Jacksonville's Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Davis wanted to meet NWA world champion Sting and the visit was arranged Nov. 20 by Dream Come True, Inc. As Phelps reports: "There were no TV cameras or press there to record it, so Sting had no motivation other than caring for the boy. But he stayed for 30 minutes. Before he left, he gave the boy a Sting watch." Phelps learned of the visit a week later from DCT director Laine Silverfield.

Sting told Ms. Silverfield: "I can't do enough for these children. It's my pleasure." Sting had been escorted to the hospital in rush hour evening traffic by Duval County sheriff's deputies. Chuck's mother, Gail Davis, told Phelps her son, though greatly weakened by the illness, talked softly to Sting and "raised his fist in a salute."

Unlike young Matthew Alford, a cancer victim whose meeting with Hulk Hogan is detailed on page 2, Chuck did not have much more time. Nov. 27, exactly one week after Sting visited the teen, Chuck passed away.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

(U.S./CANADA) $5 for 5 issues, $10 for 11, $15 for 16.
(OVERSEAS) $9 for 5 issues, $18 for 11, $27 for 16.
(GIFT OFFER THROUGH JAN. 1) Any 5-issue gift subscription will earn you 2 free issues of MATWATCH.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER (no credit cards and no "bill me" subscriptions) to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____

MATWATCH
16 ROBIN HOOD LANE
JACKSON TN 38305

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON TN
PERMIT NO. 50

David Skolnick
221 Stowe Ave./#A-1
Troy, NY 12180
3/25/91

FIRST CLASS MAIL